

## Seton Hall University eRepository @ Seton Hall

---

Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International Relations

---

Spring 2015

# International Conflict and Security

Aaron Hale PhD  
*Seton Hall University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi>

---

### Recommended Citation

Hale, Aaron PhD, "International Conflict and Security" (2015). *Diplomacy Syllabi*. 29.  
<https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi/29>

# **International Conflict and Security**

DIPL 2120 AA

W: 11:00 – 1:30

Duffy Hall 61, Spring 2015

Instructor: Aaron Hale, Ph.D.  
Office hours: W: 9 -10:30, 1:45 – 3:15  
Office: McQuaid Hall, Rm 107  
Office Tel.: (973) 313-6065  
E-mail: aaron.hale@shu.edu

## **Course Description and Content**

This course offers a broad overview of the study of international conflict and security. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to different ways in which states have historically attempted to secure their territories/polities and to compare them with ways in which states currently define the nature of (inter)national threats and the notion of security itself. The end of the Cold War and the increasing global economic, political and cultural interdependence have allegedly put to rest old fears of great wars and nuclear annihilation. Simultaneously, they have raised new specters of terrorism and of biological, cultural and information violence. The change may be attributed to re-conceptualization of sovereignty and borders: once considered sacred and inviolable, borders are now increasingly viewed as porous, malleable and indefensible. And this transformation, of course, poses some very important questions: can states really protect what they used to proclaim that they could protect? Can states really ignore violence that takes place within the borders of other states? And where do states and boundaries of their intervention really begin and end?

Students should be prepared to read a significant amount of material in this course. Courses work well when students come prepared for a critical exploration of the assigned material. The main text, Joseph Nye's *Understanding International Conflicts*, ends each chapter with pertinent study questions. Each student should read the questions before reading the chapter and then go back to them again after you finished reading the chapter. If you do that, and if you think thoroughly about each question, I am sure we will have a very interesting and productive semester.

Throughout the semester we will link the readings to contemporary events. Students therefore should stay abreast of current events through the reading of newspapers, blogs, listserves, etc. Good starting points are internationally recognized news-sites like: *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The BBC*, *AllAfrica.com*. You may also want to watch cable news on TV, such as: the BBC, CNN International, CCTV9 (from China) and Russia Today provide good insight into current events. You will get a broader perspective and insight if you follow news from different countries.

Each student will choose one country at the beginning of the semester to follow over the course of the semester. It is each student's responsibility to examine and thoroughly understand the political and economic history of their respective country, as well as the contemporary standing of each country. Obvious questions are: is the country democratic? What are the security challenges facing country X? Is there an ongoing conflict in country X? How do the theories addressed in the course help you to understand country X? The mid-term exam, final exam, and semester paper will address specific questions related to your country of focus. Therefore, it is imperative that each student becomes comfortable with his or her respective country's development over time.

### **Assignments and Grading Rules**

1. Leading class discussion. Each student will start off a class discussion by presenting a 5-10 minute summary and analysis of the day's readings. Leading class discussions will be assigned during the first class. Each student should present the main thesis, outline the author's argument, identify the evidence, and provide the conclusion. Is the argument logically coherent? Does the author provide empirical evidence in support of the main thesis? Offer your own well-reasoned ideas on the topic.
2. Midterm exam. Students will take an in-class midterm exam on the scheduled date of 4 March 2015. There will be no make-up exam given except for a university-excused absence.
3. Semester research paper. Each student will write a 10 - 13 page semester research paper on a topic of her/his choice with instructor approval, and will be due in class on/or before 22 April 2015, and late papers will lose 5 points per day from their grade. The paper will be based on each student's chosen country, and should address some element(s) of international conflict and security. More instruction will be provided throughout the course.
4. Final exam. Students will take an in-class final exam on the scheduled date. There will be no make-up exam given except for a university-excused absence.
5. Class participation and attendance. All students are expected to do the reading in advance and to take part in the discussion. Taking part in class discussion is more than speaking one time over the duration of the semester. The quality of class sessions is greatly enhanced when students are prepared to engage the course material in a constructive fashion. Participation will be noted and credited to your grade.

Poor attendance (over two absences) will result in a reduction of your grade. Each absence, beyond the two excused ones, will reduce your final grade by 2%.

In order to successfully complete the midterm and the final, students should choose to carefully follow security policy/issues in one of the following countries: Venezuela, Pakistan, India, Turkey, Russia, Ivory Coast, Colombia, Chad, Ukraine, Kosovo, Burundi, France, Kenya, Sudan, Egypt, China, Georgia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Burma, Iraq,

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Israel, Libya, Denmark, Iran, Bolivia, Rwanda, Cuba, Taiwan, North Korea, South Africa, South Korea, Somalia or Zimbabwe. (If you do not find any of the above countries interesting, you can choose a different country provided that you can find enough information about it).

#### **Basis for Grade and Distribution**

Lead class discussion.....	5%
Midterm exam .....	25%
Semester research paper.....	35%
Final exam.....	25%
Class Participation/Attendance.....	10%

A = 94 - 100

A- = 90 - 93

B+ = 87 - 89

B = 84 - 86

B- = 80 - 83

C+ = 77 - 79

C = 74 - 76

C- = 70 - 73

D+ = 67 - 69

D = 64 - 66

D- = 60 - 63

F = 60 and below

#### **Course Materials**

Joseph S. Nye. & David A. Welch. 2012. *Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History* (9th Edition). Pearson Longman.

Ashraf Ghani and Clare Lockhart. 2008. *Fixing Failed States: A Framework for Rebuilding a Fractured World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Roland Paris and Timothy D. Sisk. 2009. *The Dilemmas of Statebuilding: Confronting the Contradictions of Postwar Peace Operations*. London; New York: Routledge.

#### **Academic and Professional Integrity**

All forms of dishonesty, whether by act or omission, including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism and knowingly furnishing false information, are prohibited. Work submitted in the course *must be the product of each individual student*. Contributions of others to the finished work must be appropriately cited and acknowledged. Any work not following these guidelines may be found to be plagiarism and may result in academic suspension, or being asked to leave the university. Plagiarism is a serious offense, and it is each student's responsibility to abide by university guidelines. If students have any concerns or questions please see the instructor.

### **Disability Services**

If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for accommodations, in academic classes, the residence halls, food services areas, etc., under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To receive accommodations or assistance, please self-identify at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67. The staff at DSS will help you to develop a plan for accommodations. For more information contact DSS at (973) 313-6003.

### **Course Calendar**

#### **Week 1**

##### *Introduction*

14 Jan

Class introductions, course outline, expectations for class assignments, questions

Assign reading for class discussions

#### **Week 2**

##### *Enduring Logic of Conflict and (Re-)Defining Security*

21 Jan

Nye, Chs. 1 & 2

Jessica Tuchman Matthews. "Redefining Security," *Foreign Affairs* 68:2, 1989, pp. 162-177

Stephen M. Walt. "The Renaissance of Security Studies," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 35, No. 2 (Jun., 1991), pp. 211-239

Choose country to monitor for semester

#### **Week 3**

##### *Balance of Power and WWI*

4 Feb

Nye, Ch. 3

Scott D. Sagan, "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability," *International Security*, Vol. 11, No. 2, Fall 1986

Joseph Nye, "The Decline of America's Soft Power," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2004

#### **Week 4**

##### *Collective Security and WWII*

11 Feb

Nye, Ch. 4

*Germany, Hitler, and World War II: essays in modern German and world history* By Gerhard L. Weinberg, Ch.1, pp: 11-21 (Google Scholar)

Kenneth W. Thompson, "Collective Security Reexamined," *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 47, No. 3 (Sep., 1953), pp. 753-772

Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. "Origins of the Cold War." *Foreign Affairs*. 22 (1967-1968)

### Week 5

*The Cold War and Impacts*

18 Feb

Nye, Ch. 5

Film: No End in Sight

**Decision on paper topic**

**Ash Wednesday: Class Ends at Noon**

### Week 6

*Conflict and New Forms of Violence*

25 Feb

Nye, pp. 218 - 253

David A. Lake and Donald Rothchild, "Containing Fear: The Origins and Management of Ethnic Conflict," *International Security*, vol. 21, No. 2, Fall 1996

Jerry Z. Muller, "Us and Them: The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2008

### Week 7

*Globalization and Interdependence*

4 March

Nye, Ch. 7

Robert Keohane, "International Institutions: Can Interdependence Work?" *Foreign Policy*, (Spring 1998), pp. 82-98 1992

John J. Mearsheimer, "The False Promise of International Institutions," *International Security*, 19:3 (Winter 1994/1995), pp. 5-49

Robert Keohane and Lisa Martin, "The Promise of Institutional Theory: Response to John Mearsheimer," *International Security*, 20:1, (Summer 1995), pp. 39-51

## ***Midterm exam***

9 - 14 March

**SPRING BREAK!!!**

### **Week 8**

*The Sovereignty Gap*

18 March

Ghani and Lockhart, Chapters 1,2, 4 & 5

### **Week 9**

*Challenges of Intervention*

25 March

Nye, pp. 192 – 205

Mahmood Mamdani, "The Politics of Naming: Genocide, Civil War, Insurgency," *London Review of Books*, March 8, 2007

Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United States let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen," *The Atlantic Monthly* | September 2001  
([Google Scholar](#))

### **Week 10**

*Weak States, State Failure and Collapse*

1 April

Robert I. Rotberg, "Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators"  
<[http://www.brookings.edu/press/books/chapter\\_1/statefailureandstateweaknessinatimeofterror.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/press/books/chapter_1/statefailureandstateweaknessinatimeofterror.pdf)>

Ghani and Lockhart, Chs. 6 & 7

### **Week 11**

*Statebuilding Challenges and Contradictions*

8 April

Ghani and Lockhart, Ch. 8

*The Dilemmas of Statebuilding*, Chs. 1, 2 & 3

*Finish semester research paper*

### **Week 12**

*Domestic Choices, International Challenges*

15 April

*The Dilemmas of Statebuilding*, Chs. 4 & 6

Nye, Ch. 8

**Week 13**

*A New World Order?*

22 April

*The Dilemmas of Statebuilding*, Chs. 8, 9, 12 & 13

Nye, Ch. 9

**Semester paper due**

**Week 14**

*Class Wrap-up*

29 April

*Study session, question and answer for final exam*

**Final Exam Week**

6 – 12 May

Final Examinations Week



## **Some On-Line Sources:**

### **News Sources:**

All Africa News: [www.allafrica.com](http://www.allafrica.com)  
BBC: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/default.stm>  
Christian Science Monitor: <http://www.christiansciencemonitor.com/>  
Daily Mail & Guardian: <http://www.mg.co.za/>  
Le Monde: <http://www.lemonde.fr/>  
New York Times: <http://www.nytimes.com/>  
The Economist: <http://www.economist.com/>

### **Human Rights Organizations:**

Amnesty International: <http://www.amnesty.org/>  
Global Witness: <http://www.globalwitness.org/>  
Human Rights Watch: <http://hrw.org/>  
IDMC Monitoring Center: <http://www.internal-displacement.org/>

### **International Organizations:**

African Union: <http://www.africa-union.org/>  
United Nations: <http://www.un.org/>

### **International Think-Tank Research:**

Brookings Institution: <http://www.brookings.edu/>  
Ford Foundation: <http://www.fordfound.org/>  
Freedom House: <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=1>  
International Crisis Group: <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?l=1>  
Institute for Security Studies: <http://www.issafrica.org>  
United States Agency for International Development (USAID): <http://www.usaid.gov/>  
Wilson Center: <http://wilsoncenter.org/>

### **Non-Governmental Organizations:**

Care: <http://www.care.org/>  
Concern: <http://www.concernusa.org/>  
Doctors Without Borders: <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/>  
GTZ: <http://www.gtz.de/en/>  
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC): <http://www.icrc.org/>  
International Rescue Committee (IRC): <http://www.theirc.org/>  
Oxfam: <http://www.oxfam.org/>  
Save the Children: <http://www.savethechildren.org/>  
World Vision: <http://www.worldvision.org/>

### **Trade Websites:**

African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA): <http://www.agoa.gov/>  
Mercosur: <http://www.mercosurtc.com/>  
NAFTA: <http://www.nafta-sec-alena.org/en/view.aspx>  
New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD): <http://www.nepad.org/>  
World Trade Organization (W.T.O.): <http://www.wto.org/>